

State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

ALBANIA AND CROATIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Croatia adopted at Brussels on July 9, 2008, and signed that day on behalf of the United States and the other Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (Treaty Doc. 110–20), after receiving testimony from Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; and Daniel P. Fata, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Policy, Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sung Y. Kim, of California, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks, C. Steven McGann, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Fiji Islands, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Kiribati, and Carol Ann Rodley, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine audits at the Defense Contract Audit Agency, after receiving testimony from Diem Thi Le, Senior Auditor, Paul Hackler, Supervisory Auditor, and April G. Stephenson, Director, all of the Defense Contract

Audit Agency, and Gordon S. Heddell, Acting Inspector General, all of the Department of Defense; and Gregory D. Kutz, Managing Director, Forensic Audits and Special Investigations, and Gayle L. Fischer, Assistant Director, Financial Management and Assurance Team, both of the Government Accountability Office.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRANSITION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine managing the challenges of the Federal government transition, focusing on assessing the readiness and planning for the transition and identifying critical needs for the next Administration to address, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Acting Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; Clay Johnson, III, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget; Robert I. Cusick, Director, United States Office of Government Ethics; and Gail T. Lovelace, Chief Human Capital Officer, General Services Administration.

COMBATING VIOLENT CRIME

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine new strategies for combating violent crime, focusing on drawing lessons from recent experience, after receiving testimony from Dean M. Esserman, Providence Police Department, Providence, Rhode Island; Alfred Blumstein, Carnegie Mellon University H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Jeremy Travis, City University of New York John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, New York; James A. Summey, English Road Baptist Church, High Point, North Carolina; and George L. Kelling, Rutgers University Manhattan Institute, Newark, New Jersey.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 6854–6868; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 1423–1424 were introduced. **Pages H8018–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8019–20**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Dr. David O. Dykes, Pastor, Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas. **Page H7959**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 12:20 p.m. **Pages H7962–63**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched

against the United States on September 11, 2001: The House agreed by unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to entertain motions to suspend the rules relating to H. Res. 1420, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, on the legislative day of Thursday, September 11, 2008. **Page H7967**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, September 9th:

Rural Veterans Access to Care Act: H.R. 1527, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow highly rural veterans enrolled in the health system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive covered health services through providers other than those of the Department, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 417 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 578; **Pages H7968–69**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program to permit certain highly rural veterans enrolled in the health system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive covered health services through providers other than those of the Department.”. **Page H7969**

Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2008: S. 2617, to amend title 38, United States Code, to codify increases in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans that were effective as of December 1, 2007 and to provide for an increase in the rates of such compensation effective December 1, 2008, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 418 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 579—clearing the measure for the President; and **Pages H7969–70**

Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2008: H.R. 4081, amended, to prevent tobacco smuggling and to ensure the collection of all tobacco taxes, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 379 yeas to 12 nays, Roll No. 584. **Pages H7987–88**

Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2008: The House passed H.R. 3667, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, by a recorded vote of 299 yeas to 118 nays, Roll No. 583. **Pages H7970–84**

Agreed to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair on a point of order sustained against the Sali motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 228 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 582. **Pages H7982–83**

Boehner motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly with an amendment was withdrawn. **Pages H7983–84**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill pursuant to part II of H. Rept. 110–668 shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule. **Page H7977**

Agreed to the Grijalva motion that the Committee rise by a recorded vote of 221 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 580. **Page H7980**

Accepted:

Bishop amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 110–834) that adds to the proposed study an assessment of any impact a wild and scenic designation in the study area is likely to have on energy production, transmission or conveyance; **Pages H7978–79**

Flake amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 110–834) that provides that nothing in it may be construed as authorizing appropriations for a new designation within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; and **Pages H7979–80**

Grijalva amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 110–834) that requires that the proposed study analyze any potential impacts on the possession or use of a weapon, trap, or net, including a concealed weapon (by a recorded vote of 418 yeas with none voting “no”, Roll No. 581). **Pages H7977–78, H7981**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H7988**

H. Res. 1419, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yeas-and-nays vote of 223 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 577, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yeas-and-nays vote of 224 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 576. **Pages H7963–68**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:53 p.m. and reconvened at 5:27 p.m. **Page H7980**

Point of Personal Privilege: Representative Rangel rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized. **Pages H7984–87**

Amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 To Restore the Highway Trust Fund Balance: The House agreed by unanimous consent that the

Speaker be authorized to entertain motions to suspend the rules relating to H.R. 6532, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance, on the legislative day of Thursday, September 11, 2008. **Page H7988**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H7959, H7984.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7967–68, H7968, H7968–69, H7969–70, H7980, H7981, H7983, H7984, H7988. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AFGHANISTAN—IRAQ SECURITY AND STABILITY

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Security and Stability in Afghanistan and Iraq: Developments in U.S. Strategy and Operations and the Way Ahead. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Robert M. Gates, Secretary; ADM Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Ambassador Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary, Policy; and VADM James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

MILITARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on transforming the U.S. military's foreign language, cultural awareness, and regional expertise capabilities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Gail H. McGinn, Deputy Under Secretary (Plans), Office of the Under Secretary, (Personnel and Readiness); BG Gary Patton, USA, Senior Language Authority, Office of the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff/J–1; BG; R. M. Lake, USMC, Director of Intelligence, U.S. Marine Corps; RADM Daniel P. Holloway, USN, Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division (OPNAV N13), U.S. Navy; Joseph M. McDade, Jr., Director, Force Development (HAF/AID), Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Personnel, U.S. Air Force; and BG Richard Longo, USA, Director, Training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G–3/5/7, U.S. Army.

SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUNDS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology held a hearing entitled “Sovereign

Wealth Funds: New Challenges from a Changing Landscape.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VIRTUAL FENCE OVERSIGHT

Committee on Homeland Security: Held a hearing entitled “Mismanagement, Missteps and Missed Benchmarks: Why the Virtual Fence Has Not Become A Reality.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security; W. Ralph Bashman, Commissioner; and Jayson P. Ahern, Deputy Commissioner; and the following officials of the GAO: Richard Stana, Director, Homeland Security and Justice; and Randolph C. Hite, Director, IT Architecture and Systems Issues.

TASK FORCE ON ANTITRUST AND COMPETITION

Committee on the Judiciary: Approved a resolution establishing the Task Force on Antitrust and Competition.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY RIDGE COMPLEX ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans held a hearing and an oversight hearing on H.R. 6479, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex Establishment Act. Testimony was heard from Representative Stark; Eric Alvarez, Realty Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Peyton Robertson, Director, Chesapeake Bay Office, NOAA, Department of Commerce; COL Dionysios Anninos, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, Department of the Army; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Ordered reported the following: H.R. 6842, amended, National Capital Security and Safety Act; H. Con. Res. 223, Honoring professional surveyors and recognizing their contributions to society; H. Con. Res. 351, Honoring the 225th anniversary of the Continental Congress meeting in Nassau Hall, Princeton, New Jersey in 1783; H. Con. Res. 376, Congratulating the 2007–2008 National Basketball Association World Champions, the Boston Celtics, on an outstanding and historic season; H. Con. Res. 386, Recognizing and celebrating the 232nd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; H. Res. 1000, To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the naming of Pittsburgh as the culmination of the Forbes Campaign across Pennsylvania and the significance this event played in the making of America, in the settlement of the Continent, and in